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RE COMINSKY CASE AND ALBERT WEHDE

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CHICAGO, Ill. -- Testimony given by Albert Wehde, discoverer of a method whereby finger-prints can be effectively forged, has lately resulted in the acquittal of a defendant on trial for murder. Wehde's evidence with regard to the finger-impression offered by the prosecution was accepted by the jury in preference to that of William M. Evans, of the Chicago police department's bureau of identification.

John Cominsky was the defendant, on trial for the second time at Morrison, Illinois, for the killing of Mrs. Marie McKee, a telephone operator, last September. The trial was held before Circuit Judge C. J. Searle. Mrs. McKee was slain in the telephone exchange building in the town of Fulton, where she attended the night switchboard and where she slept.

Cominsky is a farmer, American-born, 39 years old. In his first trial last November the jury disagreed. Cominsky took the stand in his own defense and faced grilling cross-examination in both trials. All the evidence offered against him was circumstantial. One exhibit's a man's handkerchief bearing the initial "J", found on the crime-scene. Prosecution witnesses declared that they heard Cominsky say once that he had learned that Mrs. McKee was going about with other men, and one witness testified that the defendant said: "Marie will pay damn' dear, and I'll get George Goff and Hank Dana, too."

One finger-print found on a window screen in the room where the murder was committed was introduced in the second trial by State's Attorney Robert Besse as evidence against Cominsky. This had not been used at the first trial. Both the original imprint on the wood, which was blurred, and photographs alleged to have been made from it some time ago were offered as exhibits.

Herbert Reinert, head of the Rockford police department's identification bureau, testified that he had compared the finger-print found on the crime scene with Cominsky's and that the former was identical with the pattern of the defendant's right middle finger. Eight distinct similarities were detected by Reinert, he said.

William M. Evans, of the Chicago police department, who in professional identification circles is regarded as a high